

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /086 W

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R 080927Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL TABRIZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 127

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN UNN

AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHahr UNN

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, IR, IZ

SUBJ: KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN: A PARTIAL UPDATE

1. KURDISH DOCTOR WHO HAS BEEN FREQUENT INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN CONSULATE AND BARZANI DROPPED INTO CONSULATE JULY 6 TO INQUIRE ABOUT POSSIBILITY HIS GOING TO US AND TO REPEAT BRIEFING GIVEN HIM BY BARZANI. MAIN ELEMENTS ARE THAT IRANIAN PRESSURE ON KURDS TO EITHER RETURN IRAQ OR INTEGRATE INTO IRANIAN SOCIETY ARE GROWING, IRANIANS ARE STEPPING UP EFFORTS ISOLATE BARZANI LEADERSHIP FROM MASS OF REFUGEES REMAINING IRAN, AND, WITHIN ABOUT LAST THREE WEEKS IRANIANS ARE MAKING STRONGER EFFORTS PREVENT NEW KURDISH REFUGEES FROM CROSSING INTO IRAN.

2. NEW PRESSURES ON REFUGEES ALL INDIVIDUALLY MINOR: REDUCTION OF DAY'S MEAT SERVED IN CAMP, DELAYS IN ISSUING BLANKETS TO

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NEW ARRIVALS, GROUP MOVED TO NEW CAMP SITE NEAR SHIRAZ ONLY

TO FIND NEW CAMP INADEQUATE IN NUMBERS OF TENTS, WATER SUPPLIES, ETC. INTENTION APPEARS BE PRIMARILY DIRECTED AT LESSENING APPEAL OF REMAINING IN CAMPS SO THAT REFUGEES WILL ELECT EITHER RETURN OR MIGRATE TO CITIES, AWAY FROM BORDER, TO SEEK WORK IN SMALL GROUPS.

3. BARZANI IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE MOVE FROM PRESENT LOCATION NEAR REZAIYEH TO SUBURB OF TEHRAN. KURDS CLAIM IRANIANS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THAT 10,000 BARZANI TRIBESMEN AND CLOSE FOLLOWERS OF BARZANI COULD ACCOMPANY HIM BUT HAVE NOW CHANGED THEIR MIND AND SAY SPACE EXISTS FOR ONLY 1500 PEOPLE. BARZANI'S SONS, IDRIS AND MASOUD, ARE ALSO FINDING THEIR ACCESS TO REFUGEES IN CAMPS SPREAD AROUND IRAN INCREASINGLY LIMITED. KURDS FEEL THAT IRANIANS ARE MAKING CONCERTED EFFORT IN CAMP MEETINGS TO DOWNPLAY ANY FUTURE ROLE FOR KDP LEADERSHIP AND STRESS THAT KURDS REMAINING IRAN HAVE TO BECOME IRANIANS.

4. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS KURDS NOW CLAIM THAT IRANIANS MAKING REAL EFFORT CLOSE BORDER TO NEW REFUGEES. DOCTOR CLAIMS THAT RECENT GROUP TRYING TO CROSS WAS FIRED ON BY GENDARMERIE, TWO MEN WERE KILLED AND ONE WOUNDED AND NOW BEING TREATED IN REZAIYEH HOSPITAL WHERE DOCTOR WORKS.

5. KURDS ALSO CLAIM TO HAVE REPORTS THAT KURDS IN KIRKUK AND DOHUK AREAS OF IRAQ HAVE BEEN GIVEN TEN DAYS TO SELECT AREA FOR THEIR RELOCATION AND THAT IF THEY DO NOT DECIDE THE IRAQIS HAVE TOLD THEM THEY WILL BE SENT TO SOUTHERN IRAQ. INTENT APPEARS TO BE ARABIZATION OF AREAS AROUND OIL FIELDS.

6. COMMENT: REPORTED DEVELOPMENTS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD ALL ALONG IS IRANIAN POLICY, NAMELY TO INTEGRATE KURDS INTO IRANIAN SOCIETY AND REMOVE EXISTENCE OF COHESIVE GROUP OF DUBIOUS LOYALTY TO IRAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KURDS, REFUGEES, REFUGEE RELIEF
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TABRIZ00037
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0281
From: TABRIZ
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750775/aaaacpic.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KURDISH REFUGEES IN IRAN: A PARTIAL UPDATE
TAGS: SREF, IR, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006